

ABM

Congressional Report

Clark and Stennis Clash on Value of ABM

A debate on the value of an antiballistic missile system broke out yesterday as the Senate neared passage of a \$70 billion defense funds measure, the largest such money bill in history.

Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.) sharply challenged a Senate Appropriations Committee recommendation that deployment of the Nike X ABM system be initiated immediately. He urged President Johnson to reject such advice.

Clark contended the United States could "destroy" Moscow tomorrow, despite its ABM system, with "a sophisticated attack," and that the reverse also would be true.

Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.), floor manager of the bill, countered that Red China could possibly launch an intercontinental missile against the United States by the "early 1970s." He said our lack of an ABM system increases the risk of such an attack.

Clark said that if Red China ever posed such a threat "we could destroy their nuclear capability overnight." He said what is needed is "an informed national debate on the ABM issue."

Sen. Karl Mundt (R-S.D.), charged that Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's "cost effectiveness" policies have weakened U.S. strategic forces in the air and on the sea, and have impaired U.S. capacity to meet Soviet and Red China nuclear threats.

Tit for Tat

Angered by the House Agriculture Committee's insist-

ence in a House-Senate conference that the food-stamp program be extended no more than one year at present, a big-city Congresswoman helped defeat a peanut acreage bill backed by the Committee.

Mrs. Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Mo.), one of the chief sponsors of the food-stamp program over the years, led a revolt against normally noncontroversial legislation to let peanut farmers sell or lease their acreage allotments.

Considered by the House under a procedure requiring a two-thirds vote, the bill won a majority, 208-146, but failed to get the necessary two-thirds and was rejected.

Marshall Report

In its formal report on its 11-5 approval of Thurgood Marshall's nomination to the Supreme Court, the Senate Judiciary Committee called Marshall "uniquely qualified"

and "perfectly prepared" for the position. A four-member minority report opposing Marshall called him a "judicial activist who would seek to add to the Constitution things which are not in it and subtract from the Constitution things which are in it."

The minority views were signed by Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.). Sen. George A. Smathers (D-Fla.), who voted against Marshall, did not sign the minority views.

Other Actions

The House began debate on the foreign aid authorization bill as actress Melina Mercouri told a Capitol Hill press conference she was proud that the "outlaws" who now rule Greece had revoked her citizenship for criticizing the right-wing military coup.

Miss Mercouri attended a

news conference with Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.) who called for a total cutoff of all military aid to the current Greek regime.

The House passed bills authorizing \$1.1 billion for a two-year increase in Federal aid to the states for vocational rehabilitation and extending the Public Land Law Review Commission to 1970 with another \$3.4 million.

The Senate passed a bill establishing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin.

From staff reports and news dispatches